

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his willingness to review the proposed set of amended claims sent to him on July 25, 2003. Furthermore, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment that the proposed claim amendments overcome the rejection of claim 1 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,206,671 (Hoehn) in view of U.S. Patent 3,521,688 (Urschel et al.).

In the amendment, the paddles are now defined as being generally rectilinear in shape and extending at an identical and constant angle relative to the axis of rotation of the impeller. Applicants submit that the Hoehn and Urschel et al. references, whether considered collectively or individually, fail to disclose or suggest an impeller having paddles with the construction now recited in claim 1.

Specifically, the Hoehn reference, in observing FIGS. 1 and 3, discloses impeller blades that have a first rectangular portion adjacent the rear of the drum and a second blade portion that extends from the first portion towards a forward end of the impeller and curves in the direction of movement of the blades (col. 2, lines 38-46). Nowhere in the Hoehn reference is there a disclosure or suggestion of an impeller having a plurality of paddles each being rectilinear in shape and extending at an identical and constant angle relative to the axis of rotation of the impeller.

The Urschel et al. reference fails to make up for the shortcomings of the Hoehn reference. In observing FIG. 7, the paddles of the impeller are shown as being curved throughout their lengths and disposed generally chordally with respect to the axis of the impeller (col. 7, lines 39-43). Accordingly, the Urschel et al. reference similarly fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of paddles each being rectilinear in shape and extending at an identical and constant angle relative to the axis of rotation of the impeller.

Applicants have also added new claim 5 that recites that the angle at which the paddles extend relative to the axis of rotation of the impeller is greater than 0° and less

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than 30°. Applicants submit that the cited references also fail to disclose or suggest an impeller having paddles identically and constantly at the defined range of angles in claim 5.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claims 1 and 5 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicants' Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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